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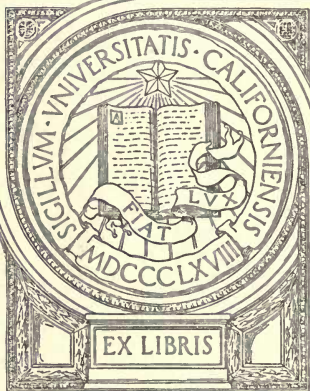
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Review of the Contest, Con-
cerning Four New Regiments Gra-
ciously Offered by His Majesty
to be Sent to India...

By
Alexander Dalrymple

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES



EX LIBRIS

REVIEW of the CONTEST,

concerning

FOUR NEW REGIMENTS

*Graciously offered by HIS MAJESTY to be sent to INDIA
on the late apprehension of War,*

and

Then, gratefully accepted,

by

The Court of Directors of the East-India Company,

Who,

On the Change of Circumstances, by the re-establishment of Peace,

Have

Rescinded their Resolution of Acceptance:

It appearing the *Expence*, to the EAST-INDIA COMPANY,

would be above £50,000 *per* annum

More, than a like number of Recruits sent to India

in

The Company's Service.

There is no power in the tongue of man

To alter me: I stay here on my bond.

A pound of that same merchant's flesh is thine;

The Court awards it, and the Law doth give it.

Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice.*

L O N D O N:

Printed by GEORGE BIGG, 1788.

By Alex. Dalrymple

Review of the Court

Four New Reports

Published by the Court

London

Printed by the Court

Printed by the Court

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P R E F A C E.

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THE Writer, of the following Sheets, was impelled, on perusal of the Papers delivered to the East India Proprietors, to offer his sentiments on the subject: he is very sensible, how much he must owe to the indulgence of the Publick, if they are favourably received, the shortness of the time not permitting a due arrangement of the materials in their best order; a full discussion of the arguments; nor even correction of the language, in which his ideas were first expressed.

The Writer is not stimulated by any resentments; he has not *individually*, or *relatively*, (but as a Subject of the Realm, and a Friend to the East India Company) any *interest* in the Contest; he lives in habits of Friendship with Some on all sides of this Question: He has seen too much of the World, ever to *expect*, even that men who mean well, shall think alike; and having always maintained the *right* of *judging* for *himself*, he has learnt to allow that *self-judg-*

ment to others, without imputing profligacy of intention, or weakness of understanding.

The Writer is not accustomed to speak, with *reservation* of his *opinions*: He therefore fairly avows, that several circumstances have raised his apprehensions, “ that it is in Some
“ Men’s Contemplation to *abolish* the *Political Existence* of the East-India Company
“ in 1794, when the present term of Their
“ exclusive Charter expires.”

The East-India Company, under the check of The Crown and Parliament whenever They abuse their trust, and the execution of essential Justice, on their Servants who may be found guilty, is the only Establishment, under which India will not be the *certain* and *speedy* RUIN of THIS COUNTRY.

The consequence of *unqualified* India Patronage to THE CONSTITUTION, in whatever hands that *unqualified* Patronage should be placed, would be TOO FATAL! not to give an *alarm!* at the most *distant* movements of THIS MINISTER OF DESTRUCTION!

26th February 1788.

21st February, 1788.

THE matter lately under discussion at the India-House, which comes before the Proprietors of East-India-Stock, on Wednesday next, for their final determination by Balot, is of the most serious concern !

An impartial Bye-stander cannot without astonishment behold to what lengths This Dispute has been carried ! when he sees a Message, in the stile of an Egyptian-Task-Master, declaring that The Board of Controul are determined to provide *Transports* for carrying these Troops to India at The Company's expence, lest, eventually The Reference to the Court of Proprietors should not be conformable to their wish ! altho' the Court of Directors had humbly requested “ no
“ measures might be taken, by H. M.
“ Ministers, for *transporting* those troops,
“ 'till the sentiments of the General Court
“ could be known ;” and had before informed the Board, “ that after dispatching
“ the Bombay and China Ships, there
“ would remain 17 Ships, in which H.
B M. troops

“ M. troops might be conveyed to India,
 “ in case the measure should be finally
 “ determined upon.”

This led me to investigate the whole Proceedings; of which I think it proper to give a summary View.

The Act of Parliament of 24th George the 3^d, required The East India Company, to make every practicable retrenchment, and reduction, in their Establishments in India, Civil and Military; and, after receiving the necessary information, The Court of Directors were to declare, what would be adequate to the support of the dignity of the Kingdom, and the security of the British Possessions in India.

The Company were in the mean while, restrained from sending any new Servant to India, Civil or Military, under the degree of Counsellor or Commander in Chief.

After The Proper Establishment was agreed upon, The Company were restrained
 from

from appointing a greater number of persons to be Writers or Cadets, or in any other capacity, than what would be sufficient to supply vacancies, and keep the Establishment compleat.

When this Establishment was compleated, The Company were required to make all promotions, civil and military, in regular progressive succession to the higher ranks, according to seniority—and annually, within fourteen days after the Meeting of Parliament, to lay before both Houses, a schedule of their Civil and Military Establishment.

There is so much sound policy and good sense in these Regulations, that every impartial Person must give them his heart-felt approval.

In 1785, The East India Company accordingly formed the outline of this permanent Establishment: which, in general, met with the approbation of The Board of Controul: but The Board made *considerable reduction* in the *number of European Infantry in Bengal*: on

this The Court of Directors remonstrated,
 on the 26th August; and The Board in their
 reply, dated 5th September say, “ with re-
 “ gard to the number of Europeans on the
 “ Bengal Establishment, we were inclined to
 “ think it sufficient for the purpose of that
 “ Government, *considering the flattering pro-*
 “ *spect of peace in India*, which the present
 “ state of your affairs appears to promise.
 “ And it is evident, that in every considera-
 “ tion of this subject, *regard must be had not*
 “ *only* to the advantage to be derived from *any*
 “ *given number* of Europeans, but also to the
 “ probability of your being able to support
 “ such establishment by a sufficient annual
 “ proportion of recruits from Europe; for if
 “ this cannot be done, *a larger nominal Esta-*
 “ *blishment, deficient in it's effective strength,*
 “ *may add to the expence, but cannot increase*
 “ *the security of your provinces.*” However
 The board were induced to add to the Military
 Establishment at Bengal, two battalions of
 European Infantry and one battalion of Euro-
 pean

pean Artillery, “ by which (The Board observe
 “ to the Court of Directors) the whole num-
 “ ber of Europeans in your Bengal army will
 “ amount (officers included) to above 5000
 “ men, a force exceeding that stated by you to
 “ be necessary, and *fully adequate* in our opinion
 “ to the *security of those valuable possessions.*”

The foregoing will clearly shew, what was,
 on all sides, considered to be a *Peace Estab-*
lishment fully adequate to the security of India.

The East India Company were, by the
 Act 21st of G. 3^d, to pay to His Majesty,
 Two Lacks of Current Rupees \pounds annum
 for each Regiment consisting of 1000 men,
 sent to India on the *requisition* of the Company.

It had been usual at the conclusion of the
 War, for all his Majesty's Forces serving
 in India to be called home; with a permission
 given them to enlist in The Company's Ser-
 vice: However, at the conclusion of the late
 War,

War, there remained in India Several of His Majesty's Regiments, viz.

19th Regiment of Light Dragoons

36th	}	. . of Foot
52d		
71st		
72d		
73d		
besides		

2 . . . of Hanoverians

The Number wanting to compleat The Complements of these Regiments by the last Return dated 1st February 1787 was 2644

Recruits sent out 1786 and 1787 not then arrived 1280

Deficient 1364

Supposing none died, and no Casualties in India

But, by computation, it appears the Casualties of a year amount to } 1000

So that the number required to be sent now to compleat the Complements would be . . . } 2364

And at their arrival, probably, in proportion to annual Casualties } 300

Total deficiency to compleat His Majesty's Regiments now in India } 2664

The Deficiency of Privates, in The East-India-Company's Military Establishment, by the last returns from India, of January 1787, viz.

Infantry

	Infantry			Artillery			Total		
	Estab.	returns	Def.	Estab.	rets.	Def.	Estab.	rets.	Def.
Bengal	3264	1917	1347	840	707	133	4104	2624	1480
Madrafs	2176	1175	1001	560	525	35	2736	1700	1036
Bombay	1088	648	440	280	251	29	1368	899	469
	6528	3740	2788	1680	1483	197	8208	4223	2985
Deficiency by the last return	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2985
Recruits sent out last Season	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1931
Deficiency supposing none died, and no casualties in India	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1054
But, by the best calculation that can be made, the casualties in a year amount to	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1100
Deficiency now existing	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2154
And, by the time of their arrival, more about	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	350
Total Deficiency to compleat the Company's Peace Establishment	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2504

The Number of Recruits, necessary for The Company to send out this year, to compleat their Peace Establishment, being 2500; The Court of Directors, on the 31st August 1787, applied to His Majesty for Permission to recruit (not exceeding 2500 Men) pursuant to the act of the 21st.

The Royal assent was not communicated, by the Secretary of State, 'till the 30th October,

October, a very reprehensible delay, from neglect, for I will not suppose any intention, by Public distress, to compel The East India Company to accept of the Four Regiments afterwards offered.

The Situation of Public affairs, soon after the Company's application for permission to recruit, making the event of a war with France more than probable; On the 17th October 1787 The Chairman acquainted the Court of Directors with the Heads of a Conversation held by Mr. Dundas, with himself and Deputy Chairman. The Heads of this Conversation were communicated by Mr. Dundas in *writing*, enclosed in a letter to The Chairman dated 13th October, to *prevent inaccuracy* in the *communication*; and Mr. Dundas mentions that the Copy had been conveyed to His Majesty, who approved it: It is fortunate this paper was a *written communication*, because otherwise, had it rested merely on the *words* of a
conversation

conversation, very different representations, of the purport of that conversation, might have been afterwards made by the different parties concerned in the transaction.

It appears, by Mr. Dundas's letter of 13th October, that this Conversation had occurred a few days before; altho' it does not appear The Court of Directors received any intimation concerning it, 'till the 17th.

The Paper follows

“ It is His Majesty's intention immediately to raise four Regiments for service in India, each Regiment to consist of ten companies with the following Establishments, 1 Colonel. 1 Lieut. Colonel. 1 Major. 7 Captains. 1 Capt. Lieutenant. 22 Lieutenants. 8 Ensigns. 1 Adjutant. 1 Quarter-Master. 1 Surgeon. 1 Surgeon's-Mate. 1 Chaplain 30. Serjeants.

“ 40 Corporals. 20 Drummers. 2 Fifers.

“ 710 Privates. ”

“ In forming these Regiments it is his
 “ Majesty’s wish to extend the benefit of
 “ this measure to the meritorious Officers
 “ in the East India Company’s Service as
 “ well as His own, and therefore He is in-
 “ clined to take the recommendation of
 “ the East India Company to the follow-
 “ ing Commissions in the said Corps, viz.

“ 1 Lieut-Colonel. 3 Majors. 14 Captains.

“ 44 Lieutenants 16 Ensigns.

“ The number of privates to be raised
 “ for these four Regiments will amount
 “ to 2840 men, which *His Majesty undertakes*
 “ to

Total, officers included, each Regiment	}	848	in all 4 Regiments	3392
Non Commission - offi- cers and Privates	}	802	. . .	3280

“ to raise, on condition of The Company
 “ bearing a proportionable share of the
 “ expence, which at five guineas ~~per~~ man,
 “ for one half of the levies, will amount to
 “ about £7000, to be paid when the men
 “ are raised.

“ The Officers to be recommended
 “ by The Company must be of similar
 “ rank in their service.”

Here let us pause a little! It cannot
 but appear that His Majesty's Ministers
 have indiscreetly brought themselves into an
 Embarrassment.—Are these Regiments actual
 State Regiments provided for by Parliament?
 or are they not? if They are not! It is a mea-
 sure fraught with the most alarming apprehen-
 sions! For, according to that Doctrine! His
 Majesty may raise what number of Forces
 He pleases, without the consent or cogni-
 sance of Parliament: Provided his own
 Finances, or Resources, can pay Them.

If They are, They cannot be continued as a permanent Establishment in Peace, without a repeal of that Act; by which That permanent Establishment was virtually fixed.

I confess The continuance of *any Kings Troops* in *India*, during Peace, appears to me, a *dangerous!* if not an *unconstitutional* measure! for altho' we may have nothing to apprehend from His present Majesty,—to what an alarming situation may this Country be reduced? if The Sovereign may employ its Force, in foreign conquest, without the concurrence of Parliament—particularly if The *Sovereign Power* shall be the *only deliberative*, or *efficient*, *power* in *India*—and The East-India-Company the *Mere-Registers* of *Its Edicts!*

It is from His present Majesty's Prudence and Philanthropy we must trust for the
Establishment

Establishment of our future security, by His moderation in restraining His own power for the benefit of posterity—lest Ambition should ever incite any Prince, hereafter, to sacrifice the happiness of a People to the splendor of his own Glory! and what *Throne* is there, that has *not* been filled with such Princes?

“ Extension of Dominion is an *irre-*
 “ *sistible* desire; The considerate States-
 “ man must perceive India to be such a
 “ FIELD! that, if once opened to the
 “ Imperial Force of this Country, our
 “ *Powers*, however great, would be swal-
 “ lowed up, and vanish, like the vast Rivers
 “ in the Sandy Deserts of Africa. But
 “ whilst left *solely* to the Company, the
 “ Government can calmly look on—and
 “ say—*Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther.*”

When The Heads of Mr. Dundas's Con-
 versation were communicated to The Court
 of

of Directors, It was without any previous intimation, to The Members of the Court, of the Subject of deliberation, as is usually done, when any Matter of importance is to be discussed: When it was introduced, It was urged, that this was a Matter of that nature and importance, as required a full examination and consideration; wherefore, an adjournment was proposed: but the Chairman, without allowing the same number of days, for the Court's deliberation, as He himself had taken to introduce It, even refused twenty-four hours for consideration, and Precipitately insisted on an immediate determination, without any Documents, of Expence or Consequences, being produced.

On the Balot it was by 10 to 9 “ Resolved
 “ that the Right Honourable Henry Dundas
 “ be desired to express the grateful sentiments
 “ of the Court of Directors for His Majesty's
 “ gracious attention to the safety of The
 “ Company's possessions in India; and that
 “ they

“ they consent to receive the succours offered,
 “ in the manner proposed in the said Memo-
 “ randum.”

By what forced construction of Words or Grammar, *consent* to *receive* can be made synonymous to a *requisition*, will require an Adept in the mystery of Philology to point out.

When this offer of His Majesty was made, The Situation of Public Affairs made it highly expedient, for The Company to accept, almost, any Means of encreasing their Military Force in India; altho' no resolution, of such Importance, should be taken precipitately, and without due deliberation, His Majesty's gracious attention, to the safety of The Company's possessions in India, certainly had a claim to their most grateful Sentiments.

After His Majesty's Offer was accepted, difficulties arose in carrying into effect, that part of it, by which The Company were
 to

to recommend their own officers to be commissioned in His Majesty's Service.

To understand these circumstances, It may be necessary to say a few words, on the different nature of the Military Promotion and Provision, in the King's and Company's Service.

In the King's, It is well known there is no regular gradation before an officer becomes a Colonel, but that inferiour Promotion may be obtained, by favour in new Corps, and by purchase in the Old.

On the contrary, in The Company's Service, Men have always risen by seniority, not in Regimental, but in the Army List; The few abuses, of irregular promotions, is now entirely prevented, by the Parliamentary Regulations securing the succession by seniority, in the Company's Service: where no promotions were ever made by purchase, and conse-

consequently that grievance, existing to full extent in the King's, has no place in The Company's. Besides, in The Company's Service, There is a *Military Fund*, established for the benefit of Officers, their widows, and common soldiers, So that Men disabled by long service, or disaster, have a certain provision, not only for themselves, but for what is more dear to them! a Provision for their Families, which is a very important Superiority over the King's Service.

It must be obvious, that it was probable, the most meritorious of The Company's Officers, who might have no all-prevailing Friends in England, nor affluent Fortunes to buy promotion, might not chuse, to forego their certain prospects in the Company's Service, by accepting a Commission in the King's.

The Court of Directors on the 19th Oct.
1787, Resolved, "That all officers who shall
D accept

accept of Commissions in His Majesty's Service, shall from that time be esteemed to have relinquished 'The Company's Service.'

On an hasty view, this might appear to be meant to discourage their Officers from entering into 'The King's Service, but by 'The deed of Agreement, between the East India Company and Lord Clive, (who had contributed to the Establishment of this Military Fund) it was confined solely, for the benefit of the Officers, &c. in the *service* of the *East India Company*. This resolution was, therefore, only meant, to prevent any doubts: The extension to those Officers, not immediately in the Company's Service, being beyond the power of The Court of Directors, without recourse to the *new-confusion* of *Language*, by which, as *consenting* to *accept* is synonymous to *require*: Words being but *wind* may be explained to mean any thing.

It

It soon occurred to The Court of Directors, that very great difficulties must attend their nominating Officers to these Regiments: If the Senior Officers did not leave their Service, in which they had been brought up, Their Juniors immediately, by accepting a King's Commission, stepped over them. The King's Officers of an equal denomination having a Superiour Rank to The Company's. Altho' this may be the *legal Rule*, whatever is in itself *unjust*, cannot be made *otherwise* by any Law Human or Divine! That, of two Brothers acting in the same Public Duty for their Country's cause, one, receiving a benediction by the King's Signature to his Commission, like the miraculous touch for the Evil, shall at once supersede the unfancied Brother; this is too preposterous, in these enlightened days, when the respect to Kings! is the *respect* of *reason* to the *First Officer* of *The State*, and not the *adulation* of *Idolatry* to the *Pageant*.

On the 1st Nov. 1787, It was referred to a Board, of the Company's Field Officers, to consider and report the best mode, of carrying into effect His Majesty's gracious permission, of appointing Half the Officers, under Lieutenant Colonels, in the four new Regiments going to India. On the 7th, the Report of the Board of Field Officers was received, and and It was, on Motion from the Chair, proposed to take it into consideration, that day *three weeks*: Which was on motion amended to *Tuesday* next the 13th Instant.

On the 13th Nov. 1787, When the Court met, a letter from Brigadier General Richard Smith was read, of that days date, recommending to the Court, to endeavour to obtain relief, for The Company's Military Officers, who will be subjected to the mortification of ranking under their Juniors in service: The Court had also before them other representations of the hardships, to which the Company's

pany's Officers thought themselves subject on this account.

The Court was converted into a Committee of the whole Court, when a Petition was proposed to His Majesty, stating the hardship to which The Company's Officers were exposed on this head.

The Consideration was unanimously postponed to the 20th of November, in the meanwhile the Chairman and Deputy Chairman were desired to wait on the Board of Controul to request their serious consideration of the situation of the Company's army in India, in respect of The Company's Officers being commanded by Juniors bearing His Majesty's Commission ; the dissatisfaction which has already arisen in India on that Account ; the probable increase of such dissatisfaction : The decided opinion of the Committee, that it is highly expedient to remove the causes thereof, by giving the Company's Officers rank with
the

the King's, while serving in India, according to the dates of their respective commissions; that the Committee fear the most mischievous consequences, arising from the present distinction, between the King's and Company's Officers, and therefore most *earnestly entreat* the Right Honourable Board to *point out the mode of application*, they think *most proper* for the *desired purpose*, and that they will be pleased to give their assistance and support, upon such application.

The Petition which had been proposed as a mode of application to the Crown was communicated to the Board, but they were apprised, that the consideration of it was postponed, in hopes of being favoured with the Board's sentiments.

On the 20th The Chairman and Deputy Chairman reported to the Court of Directors, that they had attended the India Board yesterday, with the proceedings of that

that day, when Mr. Dundas [the only Member present] informed them, he was as desirous as the Directors could be, to see the Company's Officers happy and satisfied with their ranks; that the Board had given the strongest proofs of these sentiments, in the General letter to Bengal of 21st July, 1786 and that he referred it to the consideration of the Court, whether it would not be proper to wait the answer to that letter [expected by the first ship^a] before they take any further steps therein.

Several paragraphs on this footing were then offered by The Chairman, but negatived by the Court; who on a Balot “ Resolved That the Chairman and Deputy-Chairman be desired to wait upon the Right Honourable the Commissioners for
the

^a It is reported the Vessel that carried this letter was at the Cape in November - - An answer cannot therefore be expected by the first Ship.

the affairs of India, to state to them the difficulties the Court find themselves under, in filling up the Commissions in the four new Regiments intended to be sent to India; and the dangerous discussions, which they apprehend therefrom, among their officers in India; and to consult with them upon some mode for obviating the apprehended inconveniences, either by an application to His Majesty for the granting of equal rank to their officers, serving with His Majesty's Troops in the East-Indies, or *for the withdrawing entirely, the Regiments* intended to be sent, in consequence of the alteration which has taken place in public affairs, and since the adoption of the measure."

On the 28th November The Court were informed, that the foregoing Resolution had been communicated to Mr. Dundas, who had promised to lay it before the

Board

Board, and that their observations thereon would be transmitted in writing.

On the 4th December a letter, from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, containing the observations of the Board of Controul, on the Resolution of the 21st Nov. 1787, was laid before The Court of Directors. As it is of the utmost consequence to the impartiality of discussion, that a fair Statement be given of the Subject to be discussed, It seems necessary to give the letter in the *very* words.

To the Chairman of the East-India Company.

“ Sir,

“ I have communicated to the other Mem-
 “ bers of the Board, the Résolution of the
 “ Court of Directors of the 21st November,
 “ which I received from you, and the Deputy
 “ Chairman, a few days ago. We are all
 “ equally impressed with the importance of
 “ the subject, and feel ourselves as anxious as

E

“ any

“ any of the Directors can be, that every pro-
 “ per attention should be paid to the situa-
 “ tion and feelings of the meritorious officers
 “ in the service of the East-India Company.
 “ The paragraphs in the dispatches to which
 “ I formerly referred you, are proofs that this
 “ subject has not escaped our early attention,
 “ and the late communication of rank in his
 “ own army, offered by His Majesty, to no
 “ less than 78 officers, in the service of the
 “ East-India-Company, is a further proof that
 “ no opportunity is omitted of representing
 “ our sentiments to His Majesty, in the man-
 “ ner we understood to be most conducive to
 “ the interests of your officers. And from
 “ the same motive it is that we wished, that
 “ before adopting any general system, to be
 “ furnished with a report from the Governors
 “ of your settlements abroad, what, in their
 “ opinion, would most effectually tend to an-
 “ swer the object we have in view. We
 “ wished for such a report, because we have
 “ the best reason to know, that they feel
 “ cordially

“ cordially and impartially on this subject ;
 “ and from their situations have the best op-
 “ portunities of being informed what arrange-
 “ ments, under all the present circumstances
 “ of the government of India, would most
 “ completely accord with the sentiments of
 “ your officer* serving there. But altho’
 “ this mode of conducting the business is most
 “ consonant to our opinions, we are far
 “ from wishing to avoid a discussion of it
 “ with the Court of Directors, but in doing
 “ so you must be aware that the subject
 “ leads to much more detail than probably
 “ you have yet given to it. We have given
 “ directions for the purpose of being au-
 “ thentically informed what are the number
 “ of officers now in your service, with the
 “ dates of their Commissions. Being fur-
 “ nished with this information, we shall then
 “ be ready to enter into further detail, from

E 2

“ which

* “ officer” so in the India House Copy. Q? If officers in general are meant, or the Governor General?

“ which we shall be enabled to judge of
“ the full extent of your proposition, and
“ the consequences to which it necessarily
“ leads.

“ In alluding to your proposition, we de-
“ fire to be distinctly understood not to refer
“ to the concluding part of your resolution.
“ The idea of diminishing any part of the
“ British forces now in India, or in contem-
“ plation to be sent there, is so adverse to
“ what we conceive to be for the welfare
“ and security of His Majesty's dominions in
“ India, we cannot allow such an idea to
“ enter into any further discussion to take
“ place between us.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble Servant,

“ HENRY DUNDAS.”

“ India Board, Whitehall,
“ 29th Nov. 1787.”

I can-

I cannot avoid making some remarks on this letter; Mr. Dundas dwells on His Majesty's offering the communication of rank in His own Army, to 78 Officers in the Service of the East-India-Company, as a *proof* that no " *opportunity is omitted* of representing our [i. e. " the Board of Controul] sentiments to His Majesty, in the *manner we understood* to " be *most conducive* to the *interests* of your " officers."

The Officers in The Company's Service exceed 1800, who would be superseded by 86 of His Majesty's Officers in the four Regiments proposed.

But even the 78, selected from The Company's for the King's Service, were to be superseded; for, admitting that it was the Senior Officers of each Rank in the Company's Service that would be converted, however improbable the supposition, These Officers of the Company's, were to be admitted according to
their

their *then rank*; and it is notorious that the King's quota of 86 Officers, in these four Regiments, were advanced a *step*, They who were made *Ensigns*, having before no Commissions; *Lieutenants* from *Ensigns*; and *Captains* from *Lieutenants*: So that in fact, in the very formation of the Corps, the 78 Officers to be nominated by the Company, were to receive an eventual degradation. At the same time this eventual Degradation, is a proof of the manner, The Board of Controul *understood* to be *most conducive* to the *interests* of The Company's Officers.

But were we to admit, that there was no degradation, actual or eventual, to these 78 Officers themselves; how does *their promotion*, conduce to the interest of 1800 Officers, superseded by 86 of His Majesty's Officers, and also by these 78 Company's Officers converted into Kings; for when ever one of these 78 succeeds to a superiour Rank, in his own Regiment, he *at once* supersedes all the Company's

pany's Officers of that superiour Rank, to which he had been promoted.

What Mr. Dundas afterwards says, concerning the expected opinion from India on the Subject, is undoubtedly a strong reason for not taking any measure in adjusting the point of rank, 'till that advice is received: But it operates, on the other hand, as a strong objection against sending *new Regiments* to India; to encrease *that dissatisfaction*, in The Company's Officers, which is admitted to be, on the general well-grounded, tho' a question might arise, what was the best mode of removing it.

On the 5th December, 1787, The Court of Directors taking Mr. Dundas's letter of 29th November into consideration, came to a Resolution, professing their satisfaction at the former part of it, and declaring their readiness to give all attention to any communication from the Board on the Subject.

But

“ But that the Court have beheld, with
 “ the deepest concern, the determined
 “ manner in which the Right Honorable
 “ the Commissioners have thought proper
 “ to wave all further discussion upon the
 “ subject of withdrawing entirely the four
 “ Regiments intended to be raised for the
 “ service of India.

“ Desirous as the Court may be of
 “ uniting most cordially with the Right
 “ Honourable the Commissioners, in every
 “ measure which may be thought necessary
 “ for the defence of his Majesty's domi-
 “ nions in India, and unwilling, when objects
 “ of such importance are at stake ; to in-
 “ termix with them the more private con-
 “ cerns respecting the powers of the Right
 “ Honourable the Commissioners, and the
 “ Court of Directors, They cannot be en-
 “ tirely silent upon the determination of
 “ the Right Honourable the Commissioners
 “ above alluded to.

“ In

“ In justice to their Constituents, and in
 “ discharge of the trust which they have un-
 “ dertaken, they are bound to represent to
 “ the Right Honourable the Commissioners,
 “ the very heavy, and as they conceive the
 “ very unnecessary expence which will be
 “ entailed upon the Company, by adding in
 “ the manner proposed, the four new regi-
 “ ments to the Company’s Establishment in
 “ India. That they must call to the recol-
 “ lection of the Right Honourable the Com-
 “ missioners, that the measure was adopted
 “ under the pressure and apprehension of an
 “ immediate impending war, which left
 “ the Company no option with respect to
 “ the mode of raising men for their service.
 “ That nothing short of a necessity, so urgent,
 “ could have justified the Court in con-
 “ senting to the loading of their Establish-
 “ ment with 86 additional officers, whilst
 “ so considerable a number of their own
 “ remain unemployed, the competency of
 “ whom, to fill the several stations, in

“ case of a war in India, the Court
 “ humbly presume is sufficiently estab-
 “ lished, by the gracious offer which His
 “ Majesty has been pleased to make, or
 “ incorporating 78 of them into his own
 “ troops. That the necessity which first
 “ led the Court to express the grateful
 “ acquiescence in His Majesty’s intention
 “ of sending the regiments in question to
 “ India, having now been happily remo-
 “ ved, by the alteration which has taken
 “ place in public affairs, the Court can
 “ have no doubt of being able, by the
 “ assistance of his Majesty’s Ministers, to
 “ raise men for their service, without incur-
 “ ring the enormous expence which the
 “ four new regiments will bring upon
 “ them.

“ That as all possible retrenchments,
 “ both in their civil and military service,
 “ are positively enjoined them by the
 “ 40th and 41st Sections of the 25th
 Chap.

“ Chap. of 24th George III^d, it would
 “ become more immediately the duty of
 “ the Court, in compliance with the in-
 “ junction so laid upon them, by the
 “ Legislature, to step forward upon the
 “ present occasion, even if the anticipated
 “ revenues, and the enormous incumbrances,
 “ under which the Company is labouring,
 “ did not point out the necessity of the
 “ most rigid and exact œconomy.

“ That for the reasons thus submitted
 “ to the consideration of the Right Ho-
 “ nourable the Commissioners, the Court
 “ are induced to hope, that they may be
 “ pleased to alter their determination, which
 “ they seem to have taken, and concur
 “ with this Court, in a representation to
 “ his Majesty, which may be the means
 “ of procuring such an encrease of Euro-
 “ pean strength as may be judged abso-
 “ lutely expedient, in mode less destruc-
 “ tive to the welfare of the Company, and

“ which will remove from the minds, of
 “ above 1800 gallant officers, the disgust
 “ and indignation, which they must natu-
 “ rally feel, from a most cruel and un-
 “ merited supercession, after having served
 “ the Company, upon the most trying
 “ occasions, with zeal, fidelity, and suc-
 “ cess, and whose local knowledge, and
 “ past experience, must render them much
 X “ more useful to the Company, and to
 “ the Public, than any other set of men
 “ whatever.”

This Resolution was passed on the ballot
 by 14 to 7.

On the 11th December 1787 the fol-
 lowing letter from Mr. Boughton Rouse,
 the Secretary to the Board of Controul,
 dated the 7th December, on the foregoing
 Resolution was read, viz.

“ To

“ To the Court of Directors of the
“ United Company of Merchants of En-
“ gland trading to the East-Indies

“ Gentlemen

“ The R. H. the Commissioners for
“ the affairs of India, having had under
“ consideration the Minute of the Court
“ of Directors of the 5th Instant, I am
“ directed by them to acquaint you that
“ the generel subject to which that Minute
“ relates, being connected with objects of
“ more extensive concern than those to
“ which their commission is conferred,
“ they have thought proper to submit it
“ to His Majesty’s confidential servants for
“ their consideration, in order that they
“ may receive his Majesty’s pleasure upon
“ it.

“ But that they think it necessary expli-
“ citly to inform the Court of Directors
“ of their resolution, not to concur with
“ them

“ them in any such representation to the
“ King, as that which is mentioned in
“ the conclusion of their Minute, as they
“ entirely disapprove of the object, to
“ which such a representation would be
“ directed, and still more of the terms in
“ which that object is described in the
“ Minute.

“ I have the honour to be, &c.

“ C. W. Boughton Rouse.”

“ Whitehall,

“ 7th December 1787.”

The Court, after reading this letter, on
the motion of The Chairman adjourned.

The following Motion was proposed in
a Court of Directors held the 19th De-
cember 1787. “ That it is incumbent
“ upon this Court to make a respectful
“ application to His Majesty, humbly to
“ request

“ request that he will be graciously pleased
 “ to withdraw the regiments intended for
 “ service in India on account of the
 “ heavy expence to which the finances of
 “ the Company will be thereby subjected,
 “ and the dissatisfaction which the measure
 “ must unavoidably excite amongst the
 “ Company’s Officers, now serving in the
 “ East-Indies, the Court being persuaded
 “ that in consequence of the alteration
 “ which has taken place in public affairs,
 “ they shall, with the assistance of His
 “ Majesty’s Ministers, have it in their
 “ power to raise any force that may be
 “ thought necessary for the defence of the
 “ East-Indies, upon terms infinitely less
 “ burthensome to the Company.”

The Consideration was postponed from
 time to time ’till the 16th January 1788
 when it passed in the affirmative by 12 to

9, and a Committee was appointed to draw up an humble address to His Majesty accordingly.

In the Interim, on the 28th December, 1787, The Chairman laid before The Court of Directors the following note he had received from one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, Lord Sydney, viz.

“ His Majesty's servants do not propose
 “ to advise His Majesty to alter the reso-
 “ lution of sending the four regiments to
 “ India; they observe in the papers trans-
 “ mitted to them by the Board of Con-
 “ troul, that the Directors complain of the
 “ effect which the introduction of so many
 “ officers of high rank in His Majesty's
 “ service into India will have on the situation
 “ of the officers of the Company's Troops;
 “ at the same time they cannot but con-
 “ sider the admission of the Company to
 “ half the commissions in the four New
 “ Regi-

“ Regiments to be a considerable advantage
 “ to the Company’s corps of officers.
 “ But as the Board of Controul has called
 “ for the dates of the commissions of the
 “ officers alluded to by the Directors, His
 “ Majesty’s servants do not think them-
 “ selves authorized to give an opinion con-
 “ cerning the measures necessary to be taken
 “ to prevent any just complaint upon the
 “ subject in question, ’till that information
 “ is laid before them.”

On the 23d of January, 1788. This Pe-
 tition resolved on the 16th January to be
 presented to His Majesty, was submitted to
 The Court of Directors, and was by Ballot
 approved, and application made to Lord
 Sydney to present it to His Majesty, and
 a copy ordered to be sent to Mr. Pitt.

This Resolution was dissented to by The
 Chairman and also by the Deputy and 6
 other Directors and subsequently by an other
 Director.

In the present consideration Individuals ought to be put entirely out of the question, I have therefore thought it fairest to bring all Objections, made to the Resolution of The Court of Directors by the several Members, together.

1st. That The Company on 17th October had *accepted the offer* of the *four regiments*, at a time and under circumstances that would have made it treacherous to our Country to have resisted and impeded their embarkation.

2d. Because the Board of Controul and His Majesty's confidential Ministers have unequivocally given their sentiments of the *necessity of keeping up an encreased permanent European Force in India.*

3d. The additional Expence does not appear nearly so great as stated.

4th.

5th

5th. Because there was strong reason to hope the Board of Controul will on receipt of the Opinion *daily* expected from India, concur with the Court in their endeavours to obtain from his Majesty, such *mark* of His Royal favour to the Company's Officers as will remove every *just cause* of complaint on the *subject* of *their rank* whilst serving with His Majesty's Officers in India.

6th. Because it was doubted if His Majesty's Ministers would (without having recourse to Parliament) give such power to the Company as would enable them to raise any force that may be thought necessary for the defence of the East-Indies, *upon terms infinitely less burthensome* to the Company, and even with fresh Parliamentary powers, if any great saving could be made in the expence of raising a considerable force.

7th. Because Ships bound to Coast and China, that do not sail by the middle of

February run *some risk* of *losing* their *passage* by the *usual track* to China, and such as are bound to Bombay and China that may remain after the 10th February *have not much chance of saving theirs.*

That the Expence of Demurage daily incurring by their detention is very considerable.

That all the Ships bound to China carry **Treasure** to purchase the Cargoes to arrive in England in 1789, and that a disappointment of their returning in proper time will be attended with much loss to the Company.

8th. That the Resolution of 16th January, 1788, will tend to promote and encourage that dissatisfaction, amongst the Company's Officers, which that Resolution seems to be apprehensive of.

9th. When

9th. When the Regiments were accepted the strongest assurances were conveyed *thro' the Chairs*, that *His Majesty's Regiments serving in India should be constantly kept compleat*. It therefore cannot now be expected, that Government will so far *break it's engagements*, as to *disband* these four Regiments, or keeping them *compleat at home transfer the burthen* on the Publick to enable the Court of Directors to raise the privates for four additional Regiments to be added to the Company's present establishment in order that the other half of the Officers, might be furnished from among the supernumeraries now in India.

10th. Because in a letter received the 7th December, 1787, the Board of Controul have positively refused their concurrence to any representation to the King, to stop the four Regiments from proceeding to India.

11th. Because His Majesty's Servants have notified in a paper received the 28th December
that

that they did not mean to advise His Majesty to alter the resolution of sending the four regiments to India, and they must be most competent to judge of the political views of the several powers of Europe.

12th. Because after such information which may reasonably be concluded to convey His Majesty's Sentiments any further representation would appear an unnecessary repetition.

13th. Because It was apprehended the Court would appear to be wanting in respect If, after the assurances given, the Court did not confide in those assurances, that effectual measures would be taken to remove any *just complaint* upon the *subject of rank in India*.

Lastly. Because it is to be feared that no *further application can have any effect* if the Petitions already presented from the Company's Officers to *procure them equality of rank in India* with these of the King's, and the
repre-

representations which have gone from this Court, to *explain the justness of their request*, and to *enforce the necessity* of doing away the *inferiority of rank*, has not been sufficient to convince His Majesty's Ministers and the Board of Controul, that the good of the Service and Safety of the Publick weal, presses in the strongest manner the removal of a distinction so oppressive and injurious to the Company's Officers.

This may be considered, at least with as much propriety, the *first argument* in favour of the Court of Director's Resolution, as *objection* to it; for surely the good of the Service and Safety of the Publick weal, pressing in the strongest manner for the removal of a distinction so oppressive and injurious to the Company's Officers! Every resistance is not only proper, but positively incumbent, and it would be a poor apology to alledge that the Ministers and Board of Controul, and not the Court of Directors, were responsible for the encrease
of

of Discontent, by delaying to relieve the just complaint of the Company's Officers, 'till oppression and Injustice overwhelmed the Publick Safety, and It would be an injurious reproach, to His Majesty's Ministers, to suppose they would, for *ever*, turn a deaf ear to *just remonstrance*.

I have been thus diffuse in stating all the Objections, because there appears to me so little solidity in them, that I was afraid, if I had only recited such as had any weight or specious appearance, that it would have been suspected I had unfairly stated them. I shall now offer some animadversions upon them.

1st. Then, because It would have been treacherous to our Country, *at the eve of a war*, to have refused the offer of Four Regiments! must, in *profound peace*, Four Regiments be sent? were it only, even merely,
suspected

suspected that sending them will produce alarming discontents; and that too, without any consideration whether an equivalent Force, if necessary, may not be sent without risk, and at a less expence.

nd. Admitting the Board of Controul, and His Majesty's Ministers, without any exposition of the grounds for their opinion, are unequivocally for *keeping up an increased permanent European Force in India*, Does it follow that it is necessary to be done in this manner? Surely—not!

3rd. Concerning the Expence.—The proper Officer at the India-House, the Auditor of India Accounts, has stated that the difference in the annual expence, of the *Four Regiments*, or of an equivalent number of men sent out by the Company, will be £. 51,312 in peace, and £. 86,004 in the Field; and the

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difference

difference in the expence of sending them out is £. 10,625 *more*, for these Four Regiments, than for the like number of Recruits in the Company's Service.

Other Estimates are given by Individual Directors ; One represents that, instead of the expence being *greater*, the expence of the *Four* Regiments is *less*, than an equivalent Force of The Company's Service.

If the Auditor's Statement is exceptionable ? How came it to escape objection, when given in, or since, by pointing out in what it is not just ? There seems however to be no ground for imputation against the fidelity or accuracy of the Officer ; but those Individual Estimates have a relation to a different Statement.

The Auditor supposes, with good ground, that The Company having now so many
Super-

Supernumerary Officers,^a do not require any *new Officers* to be sent out, and therefore that the *Expence of Officers* is *unnecessary*. The other Estimates seem to be made, on a comparison of The Company's Expence of an equivalent number of officers, of the same rank, as the Regiments contain: but this is totally contrary to the principles and position of their Opponents, who do not admit the *necessity of any new Officers*; and therefore these Individual-Estimates do not at all apply to the matter in question.

6th. Objection, is a continuation of the Former Objection and therefore would not require any animadversion if it was not for an insinuation, injurious to the Character of His Majesty's Ministers, as if they would not give the necessary powers to the Company, for enabling them to raise the number of
men,

^a The number of Officers of The Company reduced by the Peace Establishment amounts to 600.

men, thought necessary for the defence of the East-Indies. As if it was possible for these Ministers to sacrifice the Publick welfare to resentment.

7th. Concerning the Ships whose passages to China are hazarded.

If these allegations, were well founded, that Ships for Coast and China sailing after the middle of February *run some risk of losing their passage* by the *usual track*, and those for Bombay and China sailing after the 10th of February had *not much chance of saving theirs*—they would be somewhat alarming to those who insist on transporting the Regiments upon them—as those *times of safe-passage* are now passed,

But admit the Regiments are not to go to India, where is the necessity for those Ships to proceed to Bombay and Madras? they may be dispatched to China direct, or in case the proper Bombay and Madras Ships are unable to take in all the Iron, &c. laden aboard them, one or two going thither will be sufficient

cient to carry those Commodities, which may be soon removed from one Ship to another: and the Treasure proceed to China by the direct Ships; Those Ships sent to Bombay or Madrafs, who may be too late for the *usual passage*, may proceed to China by some *other*, and arrive soon enough to return that season; as their cargoes would be ready for them to receive without delay, and the Major part of the Ships going to China direct, assure the early arrival of the greater part in England:

5th. The expectation of receiving *daily*, the reply to the letters of July, 1787, that went by the Ranger in August 1787, which Vessel, it is reported, was at the Cape of Good Hope in November, and could not therefore possibly get to Bengal before December, must be attributed to want of attention to circumstances. But can it reasonably be supposed that Lord Cornwallis would, immediately and precipitately, give his opinion on the point in question, without time to consult the temper and disposition

disposition of the Corps? and therefore it is not reasonable to expect an answer, till the arrival of the latter Ships of next season : the Ravensworth, or any Ship *daily* expected, must have left Bengal, before the letters referred to arrived in India.

But let us consider the probable consequence, Paragraphs arrive in Bengal, giving flattering hopes that something is intended favourable to the Company's officers, and that it is only delayed, till the opinion of Lord Cornwallis and Sir Archibald Campbell is received, in what manner it is to be done. The Sentiments of these Officers are transmitted to England; in the mean while arrives Four New Regiments, as a *permanent Establishment*, and, being a *permanent Supercession*, therefore the more *grievous*, by Youths *without experience or service*. It is a mockery to tell such men, in such circumstances, that they *must wait with patience*, for the favour intended them, when every

every *just cause* of complaint will be removed: We may find men differ in opinion, on this Side, and on that Side of the Cape, What is *just cause* of complaint? and They may scorn the boasted boon of 78 Officers to the New Regiments as an insulting degradation.

But what is the subject matter of these Paragraphs?—not to give the Company's Officers an equality of rank with the King's in India—but to make some “arrangement relative to the respective ranks of the King's and Company's Officers, so as that neither party would have reason to complain of irregular or unusual promotions” which does not convey the most *distant idea* of giving *general rank* to the Company's Officers - and Mr. Dundas's comment upon it, clearly imagines that the Board of Controul thought, admitting 78, out of 1800, Company's Officers to enter into The *King's*, by giving up The *Company's*

Company's service, was to be held great grace and favour to The Company's Officers, at the same moment superceeded by 86 *new Officers* of the King's.

Having I conceive fully discussed every thing, bearing the semblance of argument and reason, aduced by the minority of the Court of Directors; It may, in justice to the majority of that Court be proper to recite, at least, part of their reply to the Dissents of the minority. But I must repeat the substance, of the latter part of their reply, in the recapitulation; the former is chiefly taken up in the explanation of their conduct, which seems to be irreprehensible, and does them honour.

The 9th objection, indeed, I have made no animadversion upon, because I really cannot tell what is the drift of it; The Government no more breaks their engagements by disbanding these Four Regiments, than by disbanding any other Regiments, when

when a Peace Establishment makes the measure expedient; and the greatest part of the men will be wanted to compleat His Majesty's Regiments now in India. The only Expence to the Public, is the difference of Half Pay to the rank they were, and in that to which they have been promoted; and of the Ensigns who bore no Commission before: - a Sum too trivial to be named.

If the Regiments, now in India, had Supernumeraries sent out, without Officers, the Company could not object to pay a proportionate larger stipend than for a Regiment of 1000 men, and if *Encrease* of the *European Force* in *India* be truly the *Object*, it would be effected, in this mode, to the Company's content and advantage.

But if Government did not chuse to send the men as Supernumeraries, the Company would be glad to receive any of the Privates enlisted for these Regiments,

and the men would in all probability be disposed to enter into the Company's service.

One circumstance forcibly strikes me. All parts of the Court of Directors seem to concur in the supposition, that it is the intention of the Board of Controul, and his Majesty's confidential Ministers, to recommend to his Majesty, that local rank be given to the Company's officers. For my own part, I cannot see the most distant insinuation to that effect: it is true they talk of wishing to remove all *just cause of complaint*, but the expressions, in which their wishes are conveyed, brings to recollection, two lines in a Popular Poem.

“ Plain words, thank Heaven ! are always understood,

“ I *could* approve, I said, *not* that I *would*.”

But they would do well to consider ! the consequences of giving an alarm to 1800 brave officers, at the head of 60 Batallions of Seapoys. For the consequences would be dreadful ! if an idea should arise (however ground-

groundless) that there was an insidious intention, of amusing the Company's officers with expectation of a favourable determination to their claims: admitted to be just! 'till the expiration of the Company's *exclusive* Charter, when, the King's Forces in India being deemed adequate to its defence, the Company by the clause of a new regulating act, may be deprived of all military authority, and all their officers, at once, be cast on the World helpless and forlorn! without the Company, who having it in their power to relieve their necessities, they must remain a Company of Merchants, entituled to carry on the Trade to the East-Indies, in common with other subjects.

By an artful, or perplexed, statement of the question, apprehensions have been propagated, that the rejection of the four Regiments, would leave India destitute of the Forces necessary for its defence. But the question with the Court of Proprietors is
not?

not? whether the necessary addition of European Soldiers shall be sent? but whether 86 officers, many of them without experience, shall go to supercede 1800 of the Company's old Officers, at an expence of £.51,000 per Annum to the Company, *more* than the same Forces, sent to be commanded by their own Officers, of whom 600 are now unemployed, and patiently waiting 'till the necessity of Public Service calls them forth! at a time when almost the whole of the number of *Privates* in these new Regiments, are wanting to complete His Majesty's *old* Regiments now in India, for which the Company are required to pay, as if they were compleat, being truly in that deplorable State, so well painted by the Board of Controul, " having
 " a large nominal establishment, deficient in its
 " effective strength, adding to the expence, but
 " not tending to increase the security of
 " the Company's Possessions."

On

On the 1st February 1788, at a Court of Directors, a letter from Lord Sydney dated 31st January, was read, signifying, that his Lordship had laid before The King, the Memorial and Petition of The Court of Directors, which the Chairman and Deputy Chairman delivered to him on the 24th January, and had received His Majesty's commands to acquaint them in answer thereto, " that his Majesty does not judge proper to
 " change his resolution of sending four
 " Regiments to India; that in the formation
 " of these Corps, His Majesty attended to
 " the situation and pretensions of the Com-
 " pany's Officers in that Country; and that
 " his Majesty has it under his royal confi-
 " dération to make any farther regulations
 " which may appear expedient for the
 " good of the service."

After deliberation on this letter, and on the Law opinions on a case, prepared by The Company's Solicitor, respecting the Four Regiments.

It was resolved by Balot " That the re-
 " solution

“ resolution of this Court of the 17th Octo-
 “ ber last, accepting the four regiments in-
 “ tended for service in India, and binding
 “ the East-India Company to the payment
 “ thereof, be rescinded.”

This resolution was dissented to by some of the Directors.

At a Court of Directors the 8th February 1788, The Court was informed the Chairman and Deputy Chairman had attended the Board of Controul the preceding day, and that the Board had informed them they would communicate, on, or before, the 12th their sentiments respecting the propriety of sending the four regiments to India,

At a Court of Directors held on the 11th the following letter from Lord Sydney was read, viz.

To the Chairman and Deputy Chairman
 of the East India Company.

Whitehall, 10th February, 1788.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I have his Majesty’s commands to ac-
 “ quaint you, that three of the regiments
 “ destined

“ destined for India, are in readiness for
 “ embarkation at Chatham, Dover, Deal,
 “ and Portsmouth; and to desire that you
 “ will inform me whether any, and what
 “ ships of the Company are ready for their
 “ reception, and at what ports it will be
 “ most convenient for these troops to em-
 “ bark.

“ I am, Gentlemen,

“ Your most obedient humble servant,

“ SYDNEY.”

A motion was made “ that the Chairman
 “ and Deputy Chairman should be desired
 “ to confer and settle with his Majesty’s
 “ Secretary at War, the various matters ne-
 “ cessary to the embarking the three regiments
 “ mentioned in Lord Sydney’s Letter, on
 “ board the ships now lying at Gravesend.”

This motion was on the Balot negatived---
 and it was then Resolved, by Balot, “ That
 “ the Chairman and Deputy Chairman be
 “ requested to wait upon the Right Honourable
 “ Lord Sydney, and to inform his Lordship,
 “ in the name of this Court, in answer to
 “ his

“ his letter of the 10th February instant,
 “ that the Court of Directors have rescinded
 “ their resolution of the 17th October last,
 “ accepting the four regiments intended for
 “ service in India, so far as bound the
 “ East-Company to the payment of the
 “ expence of the said four regiments; but
 “ that this Court, ever desirous of obeying
 “ his Majesty’s commands, and of co-operating
 “ with his Ministers, as far as they can,
 “ consistent with the duty which they owe
 “ to their Constituents and to the Public,
 “ are ready to receive and accommodate his
 “ Majesty’s troops on board the Company’s
 “ ships; provided that it be clearly under-
 “ stood, that the said four regiments do not
 “ go at the requisition of the Court of
 “ Directors, that the East-India Company
 “ are not bound to pay any part of the
 “ expence thereof, and that such forces are
 “ not to be considered as part of the per-
 “ manent establishment in the East-Indies.”

At a Court on the 12th, The Chairman
 acquainted the Court that he had commu-
 nicated

nicated the Resolution of last Court to Lord Sydney, who had signified his intention of sending a letter to the Court on the subject, in the course of the day.

At a Court held the 13th February, 1788, the following letter from Lord Sydney was read.

Whitehall, 12th Feb. 1788.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I thought it necessary to lay immediately
“ before the Board of Controul, the answers
“ which you delivered to me this day to
“ my letter of the 10th instant.

“ Upon a full consideration of the matter,
“ the Board came to the Resolutions which
“ I now inclose to you, these resolutions
“ having been submitted to his Majesty,
“ have met with His Royal approbation,
“ and I am commanded to desire that you
“ will communicate them to the Court of
“ Directors without delay.

“ I am, &c.

“ SYDNEY.”

“ Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

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At

Whitehall, 12th February, 1788.

“ At a Board of Commissioners for the
Affairs of India,

Present.

“ The R. H. Lord Sydney

“ William Pitt

“ Henry Dundas

“ W. W. Grenville

“ Lord Mulgrave

“ Lord Sydney lays before the Board the
“ following resolution of the Court of Di-
“ rectors held yesterday, and communicated
“ this day to his Lordship, by the Chairman
“ and Deputy Chairman of the East India
“ Company, viz.

“ At a Court of Directors held on Monday
“ the 11th Feb. 1788, Resolved, that the Chair-
“ man, &c. (vide p. 63. l. 14, from bottom.)

“ the Board having considered the above
“ resolution are of opinion, that with respect
“ to the two first of the conditions therein
“ contained, by which the Directors claim
“ a right to withdraw the requisition for
“ the said troops, and thereby to liberate
“ themselves from any obligation under the
“ Act of 1781, to pay the sums directed by
“ that Act to be paid by the Company for
“ the King's troops going to India, at their
“ requisition; they conceive it is by no means
necessary

“ necessary for them to enter into the dis-
 “ cussion of that question. That it does
 “ not appear to the Board that the said
 “ Act has made any provision for the case
 “ of the Court of Directors being desirous of
 “ withdrawing such requisition, or that it is
 “ by any means clear that under the spirit
 “ of the Act such requisition could be with-
 “ drawn under the present circumstances,
 “ without making the East-India Company
 “ liable to the payment of considerable ad-
 “ ditional expences.

“ That with respect to the third point,
 “ the Board do not conceive that the King’s
 “ troops going to India, either under such a
 “ requisition or otherwise, are to be considered
 “ as forming any part of the Company’s
 “ establishment in the East-Indies. They
 “ certainly do not feel themselves enabled to
 “ decide, at present, what may be the num-
 “ ber of King’s troops which it may at
 “ any time hereafter be expedient for his
 “ Majesty to station in the East Indies. But
 “ the Board think it right to add, that they
 “ do not now foresee any circumstances which
 “ are likely to alter their opinion, that the

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“ number

“ number now going out are necessary to be
 “ kept up in addition to the force actually
 “ there.

not “ That under this opinion the Board will
 “ feel it their duty to exercise the super-
 “ intending powers which have been vested
 “ in them over the revenues of the British
 “ possessions in the East Indies, in such a
 “ manner as may effectually provide that those
 “ revenues shall be applied to defray the
 “ expence of the force which they consider
 “ to be necessary for the defence of those
 “ possessions. And they have no doubt that
 “ the Court of Directors will not think it
 “ expedient to bring upon their constituents,
 “ a considerable additional charge by com-
 “ pelling his Majesty’s servants to have recourse
 “ to any other mode of sending those troops
 “ than that which has hitherto been usual,
 “ If the government is reduced to such a
 “ necessity, the Board will undoubtedly feel it
 “ right, in every principle of justice, to
 “ direct, that whatever may be the expence
 “ of this mode of conveyance shall be de-
 “ frayed from the revenues in India.”

The Court of Directors having deliberated
 thereupon, a motion was made to embark
 the

the troops, which passed in the negative—and the Court adjourned.

The Court being met again it was by balot “ Resolved, that This Court do ad-
 “ here to their resolution of the 11th in-
 “ stant, and they will on Friday next dis-
 “ patch such ships as are ready to proceed
 “ on their Voyages to Bombay and China,
 “ lest such ships, by the lateness of the
 “ season, might be in danger of losing their
 “ passage, and this Court do think it en-
 “ cumbent upon them to declare that there
 “ will then remain 17 ships in which His
 “ Majesty’s troops may be conveyed to In-
 “ dia, if the measure should be finally re-
 “ solved on by competent authority.”

A list of Ships to be dispatched was read.

It was then on several motions, by balot,
 “ Resolved that the Chairman and Deputy
 “ Chairman be desired to convey the fol-
 “ lowing Resolutions to the R. H. Lord
 “ Sydney, in answer to his Lordship’s letter
 “ of the 12th instant, as the Court of Di-
 “ rectors humbly conceive, that the Reso-
 “ lutions of the R. H. the Commissioners
 “ for the affairs of India, are contrary to
 “ the Act of the 24th of His present Ma-
 “ jesty, and adverse to the right and privi-
 “ leges

“leges reserved to their Constituents under
 “that Act, they have resolved, that a Meet-
 “ing of their Constituents, be called for
 “the purpose of laying before them, the
 “proceedings relative to the sending of the
 “four regiments to India, and until the
 “sentiments of their Constituents can be
 “known, they humbly request, that no mea-
 “sures may be taken, by his Majesty’s
 “Ministers, for transporting those troops to
 “India.”

The Court Resolved that a General Court
 should be called, for Tuesday the 19th, and
 that the Proceedings of the Court be printed,
 and sent to each Proprietor forthwith.

The Court also Resolved, that it be re-
 ferred to the Committee of Shipping, to
 take into their immediate consideration the
 latest times the Ships of this Season ought
 to sail from the Downs, agreeable to their
 present destinations, with a fair prospect of
 making their passages in proper time, and
 report.

At a Court of Directors the 15th Fe-
 bruary 1788, a letter from Lord Sydney
 was read enclosing the following Paper viz.

“Whitehall 14th February 1788.

“At a Board of Commissioners for the
 “Affairs of India,

Present,

Present.

R. H. Lord Sydney

William Pitt

Henry Dundas

W. W. Grenville

Lord Mulgrave.

“ Lord Sydney communicated the following Minute of the Resolutions of the Court of Directors, which was delivered to him this morning by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

“ At a Court of Directors held on Wednesday 13th Feb. 1788, Resolved that this Court do adhere, &c. (vide p. 69, line 4.)

“ The Board having considered the above Resolutions, observe with satisfaction, that the Directors have agreed to summon a Court of Proprietors, and lay before them, the Proceedings relative to the sending the four Regiments to India, as they cannot entertain a doubt, that the Proprietors will see how materially their interest is concerned, in removing the obstructions which have been thrown in the way of transporting on board the Company's ships, the regiments which His Majesty thinks proper to send to India. But to prevent any possible loss of time, the Board are of opinion, that measures should be taken eventually to provide a sufficient

“ a sufficient number of transports for carrying
 “ such of the Regiments as may be ready to
 “ embark; and they think it proper to re-
 “ peat, their determination, to direct the
 “ expence of conveying the troops to be de-
 “ frayed out of the revenues of the British
 “ possessions in India; as the protection and
 “ security of those possessions is manifestly the
 “ object to which the revenues arising there-
 “ from, must, at all times, in the first instance
 “ be applied. That Lord Sydney be requested
 “ to communicate a Copy of this Minute to
 “ the Chairman, and Deputy Chairman, for
 “ the information of the Court,”

The urgency of the time does not allow
 the intended *Recapitulation*.



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